

SN 09/856,907
Atty Docket No. DSP/HB/07.01/US

REMARKS

1. Status Information:

In the Office Action dated December 12, 2007, the rejection under 35 USC 112, 2nd paragraph, as well as the formalities objections, were withdrawn. The rejection under 35 USC 102(b) was maintained. Claim 1 is hereby amended.

2. Amendments to Claim 1:

Claim 1 has been amended in order to definitively clarify the "single vector" nature of the claimed invention. In particular, applicants have added the limitation that *essentially every member of the initial population of nucleic acid molecules comprises an identical vector backbone sequence*. The inclusion of the phrase "essentially every member" in this limitation is necessary to accommodate the less than completely perfect nature of recombinant DNA methodologies used in the practice of the claimed methods, and the resulting possibility that a small fraction of the nucleic acid library may contain defective and/or contaminating members in which the vector backbone sequences are less than completely identical, as disclosed in the specification at page 26, lines 5-14, and as appreciated by those skilled in the art.

Support for this amendment may be found throughout the specification, and in particular, for example, at page 5, lines 4-7; page 20, lines 7-11 and lines 28-30; page 22, line 23; and, page 26 lines 5-14 and lines 23-27.

Applicants respectfully submit that claim 1 as amended does not read on Johnson et al.


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3. CONCLUSION:

Applicants have further amended claim 1, and believe that all claims are now free of the prior art and in condition for allowance. Should the Examiner determine that any claim is not in condition for allowance, a telephonic interview is kindly requested for expediency. Otherwise, applicants kindly request an early indication of allowance.

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Respectfully submitted,


Kenneth K. Sharples Reg. No. 35,355

Law Office of Kenneth K. Sharples
Sena Plaza Building, 2nd Floor
125 East Palace Avenue – Suite 54
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87501
Tel. 505 699 6688
Fax. 505 983 2801
eMAIL k.sharples@att.net